

Memorandum

Date: December 4, 2003

To: Kathy Hill
Fisheries Management District Supervisor
Department of Fish and Game
Region 2
1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

From: Department of Water Resources

Subject: For Your Files: 2003 Frenchman Lake Creel Census

In 2003, California Department of Water Resources, Northern District Student Assistants Jake Nicholas and Michelle Cederborg and Environmental Scientist Margie Graham conducted an angler survey at Frenchman Lake, Plumas County, under my direction. This survey was conducted on 24 days from April through October 2003, along with a survey of general recreation on Little Last Chance Creek, which will be reported later.

During this period, they interviewed 306 anglers who had fished 872.75 hours, with an observed catch of 279 rainbow trout (0.32 trout per hour) and one brown bullhead. In addition, 113 rainbow trout and 12 brown bullhead were reported caught, or caught and released.

Shore anglers included 255 anglers who fished 671.25 hours and caught 198 rainbow trout (0.11 trout per hour) and one brown bullhead. They also reported they caught, or caught and released an additional 40 rainbow trout and 10 brown bullhead.

Boat anglers included 51 anglers who fished 201.5 hours and caught 81 rainbow trout (0.40 trout per hour). They reported they caught, or caught and released an additional 73 rainbow trout and two brown bullhead. These figures include two boat anglers who said they caught and released 60 rainbow trout on flies in five hours of fishing!

Mean fork length of 246 rainbow trout was 33.8 cm (13.3 in.) (Figure 1). The largest trout measured 53 cm fork length (20.9 in.).

Nearly 86 percent of the anglers fished exclusively with bait, 9 percent with bait and lures, 3.5 percent with flies only, 1 percent with lures only, and 0.5 percent with bait and flies.

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About 71 percent of the anglers censused were from out of state (mostly Reno and Sparks, Nevada). About 9 percent were from nearby Northeast counties (Lassen and Plumas Counties), and about 8 percent from Sacramento Valley Counties (mostly Sacramento County). Nearly 7 percent were from San Francisco Bay Area Counties, 3 percent from Mountain Counties (Sierra, Placer, and Nevada Counties), and about one percent each from Southern California and San Joaquin Valley Counties (Figure 2).

If you have any questions or require additional information regarding this survey, please contact me at (530) 529-7393 or www.hintonr@water.ca.gov.



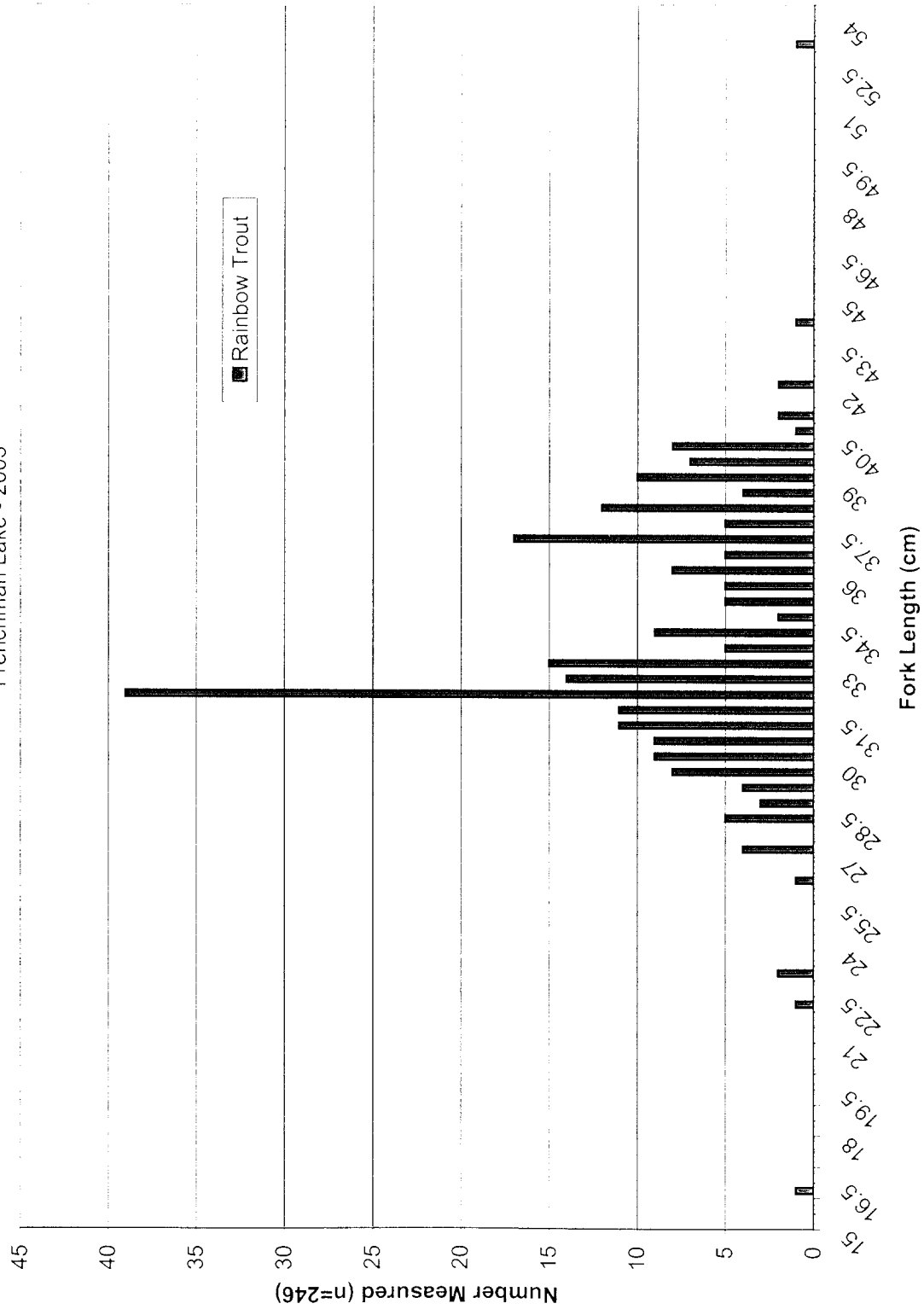
Ralph N. Hinton
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FIGURE 1
Fork Length of Rainbow Trout
Frenchman Lake - 2003



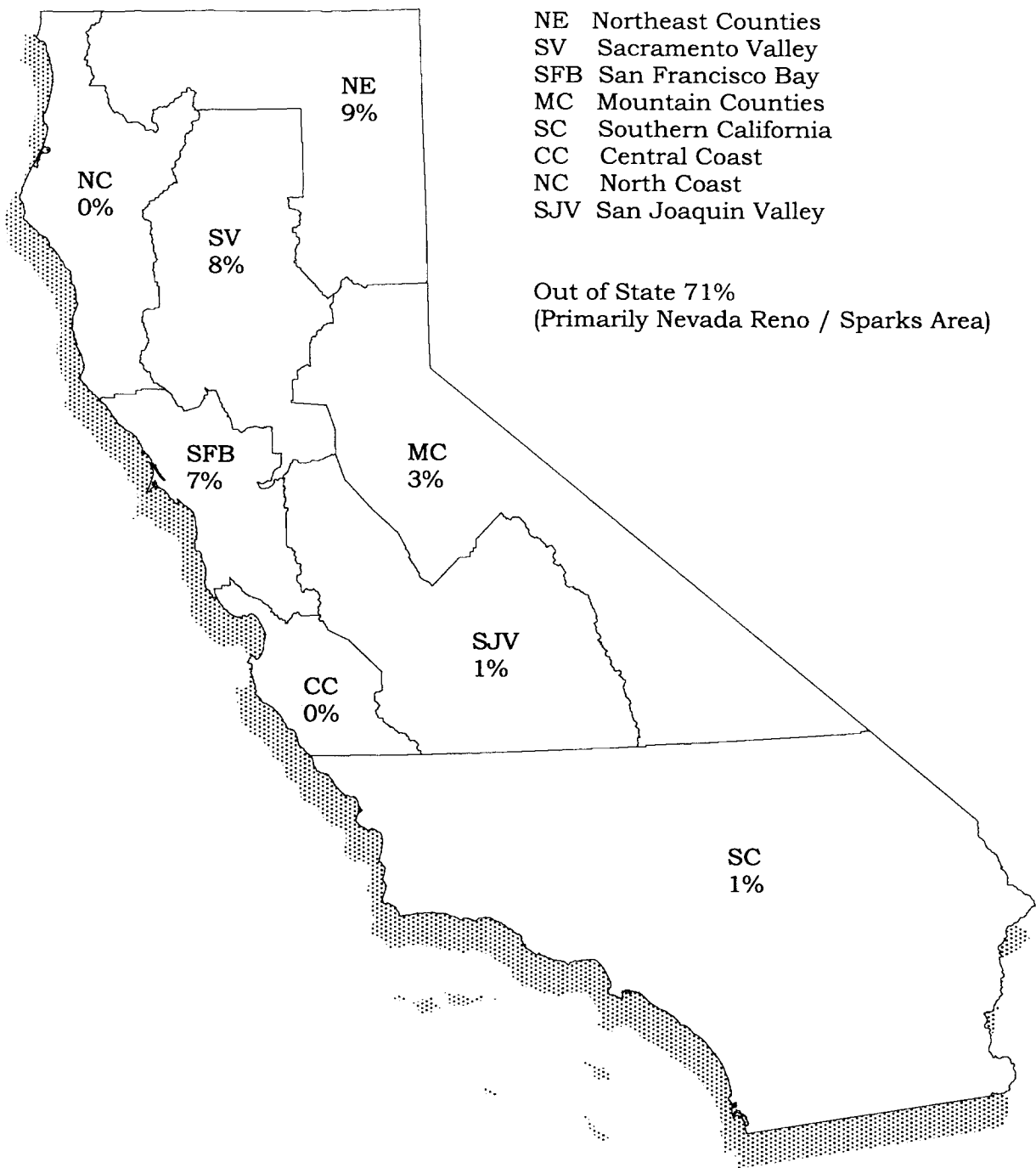


Figure 2 - Frenchman Lake - Angler Origin by County Groups - 2003